

FORM PTO-1590 (Modified)
(REV 11-2000)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

66309-135-2

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

09/913408INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/EP99/04749INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
July 7, 1999PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
February 16, 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

**METHOD FOR MOULDING RADIUSED BOTTOM CORNERS ON WOODEN OR SIMILAR PANELS COATED
WITH THERMOFORMED POLYMER SHEETS AND PANELS OBTAINED WITH THAT METHOD**

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US
Silvio MONTAGNER



Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below.
4. ☐ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).
11. ☒ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).

Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
20. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
21. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
22. ☐ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
23. ☒ Other items or information:

WO 00/48485; IPEA 409 (International Preliminary Examination Report); IPEA 408 (Opinion); Transmittal of Formal Drawings and (5) Sheets of Formals

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 1.53) <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 5px;">09/913408</div>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <div style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 5px;">PCT/EP99/04749</div>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <div style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 5px;">66309-135-2</div>	
24. The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) : <div style="margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1000.00 </div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00 </div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00 </div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00 </div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 5px;"> ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = </div>				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than _____ months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). <div style="text-align: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 </div>				<div style="margin-top: 10px;">\$860.00</div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">\$130.00</div>	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	8 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00	
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$0.00	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$990.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. (See 37 CFR 1.27). The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$990.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than _____ months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). <div style="text-align: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 + </div>				\$0.00	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$990.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$990.00	
				Amount to be: refunded	\$
				charged	\$
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>04-2223</u> in the amount of <u>\$990.00</u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>04-2223</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;"> <p>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</p> <p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> John P. DeLuca DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC Third Floor West, Franklin Square 1300 I Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20005-3306 </div> </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px; text-align: right;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 150px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">SIGNATURE</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 150px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">John P. DeLuca</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">NAME</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">25,505</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">REGISTRATION NUMBER</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">August 14, 2001</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">DATE</div> </div>					

66309-135-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) PATENT
)
Silvio MONTAGNER) Group: Unassigned
)
Serial No. Unassigned) Examiner: Unassigned
)
Filed: August 14, 2001)
)

**METHOD FOR MOULDING RADIUSED BOTTOM CORNERS ON WOODEN OR
SIMILAR PANELS COATED WITH THERMOFORMED POLYMER SHEETS AND
PANELS OBTAINED WITH THAT METHOD**

* * * * *

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Washington, D.C.
August 14, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the Application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1) (Amended) A method for moulding wooden or similar panels with radiused bottom corners, said panels being coated with thermoformed polymer sheets, comprising the steps of:

removing some material from at least one side of a panel in correspondence with the bottom edge of said panel so as to remove the corner and create one or more grooves in which to fit an inserted element;

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applying on this panel, on the top surface and on all the side surfaces of at least as far as the milled edge, a thermoformed coating of a suitable sheet of polymer resin or similar material;

inserting a corner-covering element in one or more cavities in the panel formed by the above-mentioned removal of material, this element having a profile conjugate with the profile obtained by removal of the bottom edge of said panel.

2) (Amended) A panel according to claim 1, wherein said corner-covering element is a radiused external profile so as not to be sharp.

3) (Amended) A panel according to claim 2, wherein said corner-covering element is made of plastic.

4) A panel according to claim 2, wherein said corner-covering element is made of aluminum.

5) (Amended) A panel according to claim 2, wherein said corner-covering element is made of wood.

6) (Amended) A panel according to claim 2, wherein said corner-covering element is made of ABS.

7) (Amended) A panel according to claim 2, wherein said corner-covering element is made of rubber.

8) (Amended) A panel according to claim 1, wherein said corner-covering element is present on the whole perimetric edge of said panel.

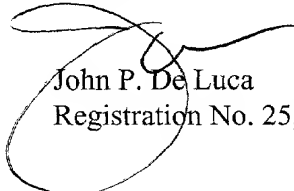
Please remove multiple dependencies from the claims. If any multiple dependent claims remain after amendment, such multiple dependent claims should refer only to the next previous claim.

REMARKS

This Amendment is for the purpose of removing multiple dependencies and reference numerals from the claims and for placing the claims in appropriate U.S. format.

Allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


John P. De Luca
Registration No. 25,505

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC
1300 I STREET N.W.
SUITE 300 W
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(202) 522 8600

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1) (Amended) [Method] A method for moulding wooden or similar panels with radiused bottom corners, said panels being coated with thermoformed polymer sheets, [characterized in that it comprises the following operations] comprising the steps of:
- [-] removing some material from at least one side of a panel [(2, 100)] in correspondence with the bottom edge of said panel so as to remove the corner and create one or more grooves in which to fit an inserted element;
 - [-] applying on this panel, on the top surface and on all the side surfaces of at least as far as the milled edge, a thermoformed coating [(5) composed] of a suitable sheet of polymer resin or similar material;
 - [-] inserting a corner-covering element [(6, 10, 20, 30, 40)] in one or more cavities in the panel formed by the above-mentioned removal of material, this element having a profile conjugate with the profile obtained by removal of the bottom edge of said panel.
- 2) (Amended) [Panel] A panel according to claim 1₁[], characterized in that] wherein said corner-covering element [(6, 10, 20, 30, 40) presents] is a radiused external profile so as not to be sharp.
- 3) (Amended) [Panel] A panel according to claim 2₁[], characterized in that] wherein said corner-covering element is made of plastic.
- 4) [Panel] A panel according to claim 2₁[], characterized in that] wherein said corner-covering element is made of aluminum.

5) (Amended) [Panel] A panel according to claim 2_i[], characterized in that] wherein
said corner-covering element is made of wood.

6) (Amended) [Panel] A panel according to claim 2_i[], characterized in that] wherein
said corner-covering element is made of ABS.

7) (Amended) [Panel] A panel according to claim 2_i[], characterized in that] wherein
said corner-covering element is made of rubber.

8) (Amended) [Panel] A panel according to [any of the claims from 1) to 7),
characterized in that] claim 1, wherein said corner-covering element is present on the whole
perimetric edge of said panel.

09/913408

Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 AUG 2001

- 1 -

METHOD FOR MOULDING RADIUSSED BOTTOM CORNERS ON WOODEN OR SIMILAR PANELS COATED WITH THERMOFORMED POLYMER SHEETS AND PANELS OBTAINED WITH THAT METHOD

The invention concerns a method for moulding the radiused bottom corners ^{on} of wooden or similar panels coated with thermoformed polymer sheets. The invention is also applicable to the panels obtained with that method.

It is a known fact that the thermoforming technique used in the woodwork sector concerns the production of panels for use in various furnishing sectors, such as desk tops, kitchen worktops or other uses. This method consists in the application of a coating of polymer sheets, that is of plastic laminate products in sheets which may be sheets of PVC, polypropylene, polyester or similar products which cover panels of wood chipboard, MDF or similar, that is of products which are not made of solid wood. These ^{coating sheets} panels are applied by means of softening due to heating and subsequent adhesion by means of a membrane or vacuum press onto the panel on which a coating of glue has previously been applied.

Thermoforming alone ensures covering of the panel on three sides but not on the bottom side, due to the application technique in which a press is used. In fact, a sheet of polymer of the same type is applied beforehand on the bottom side of the panel that is to be covered, so that the subsequent application of the sheet on the three sides, as described above, closes the panel on all six surfaces forming a parallelepiped or similar figure. For this ^{important} very reason, between the top covering and the bottom covering a corner is created which may be sharp or at least irritating for anyone resting his or her hands on the bottom edge of the panel. Just consider the frequent possibility of the panel being used as a top for a table or writing desk. Think how often the hands rest or rub against the bottom edge, with the possibility of irritation or even injury.

The US-A-5,085,027 document discloses a furniture panel with a core covered by veneers. This panel has generally rounded edge with a low radius portion which is impossible to well cover with the veneers. For this reason the low radius edge is machined to create an housing for projection plug; said plug, after insertion, is machined to provide a smooth continuous surface with the panel edge.

The aim of the invention is to create a method for moulding wooden or similar panels which overcomes the limits of present-day technique and the problem

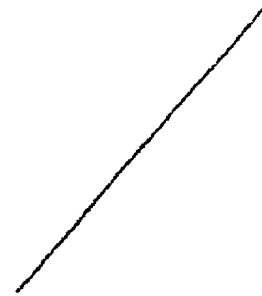
- 1a -

caused by the making of the bottom corner presenting the dangerous characteristics described above.

It is also intended that the panel made with this method should be inexpensive and have a pleasant appearance.

- 5 The aims mentioned above and others which will be better indicated below are achieved through the implementation of a method for moulding wooden or

Moulded bottom corner



similar panels coated with thermoformed polymer sheets, characterised by the fact that it comprises the following phases:

the main features of which are according to claim 1.

- removing some material from at least one side of a panel in correspondence with the bottom edge of said panel, so as to remove the corner and create one or more grooves in which to fit an inserted element;
- applying on this panel, on the top surface and on all the side surfaces at least as far as the beginning of the area where material is removed, a thermoformed coating composed of a sheet of polymer resin or similar material;
- inserting a corner-covering element with a profile conjugate with one or more cavities in the panel formed by the above-mentioned removal of material, this element having an external profile that matches perfectly the surfaces cut during the previous removal operation.

According to ^{a preferred embodiment of} the invention, the corner-covering element may be made of various materials such as solid wood, aluminium, plastic, ABS, rubber or other materials and may be conveniently fitted either on only one side or on all four sides of the panel, in correspondence with the bottom edge.

The moulding method to which the invention refers and some examples of application of the panels will be described below as illustration, without intent of limitation, and with the aid of the drawings in which:

- fig. 1 shows in section a part of the panel made with the moulding method of the invention;
- fig. 2 shows the panel made with the moulding method of the invention during the moulding of the panel;
- fig. 3 shows the corner-covering element applied to the panel of fig. 1 and 2;
- fig. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 show a partial section of panels with different corner-covering elements implementing the invention.

It is stated that hereinafter the term "wooden panel" is used to refer to a panel made of chipboard, MDF, or similar or comparable materials, used in the woodwork industry as a replacement for wood itself.

With reference to fig. 2, it can be observed that in the panel, indicated as a whole by 2, the bottom corner has been removed beforehand by milling, creating a groove, indicated by 3, which develops along the whole depth of the side 21 of the panel. The bottom surface 22 of the panel 2 has been covered beforehand with a covering element 4 which is generally composed of a polymer sheet of PVC, polypropylene or polyester. The removal of the bottom

corner of the panel 2 to create the groove 3 may be done either before or after application of the bottom panel 4. The panel 2 with the milling 3 performed and with the bottom covering 4 is placed on the bed of a vacuum or membrane press and a sheet of polymer material 5 is placed close to the top surface 23 of the panel 3 to form the coating of the three still uncovered sides of the panel 2. Thermoforming, which is carried out with the aid of a membrane or vacuum press not shown in the figure, leaves the sheet 5 as shown in fig. 1. As may be seen in this figure, the bottom edge of the coating sheet 5 reaches the edge which circumscribes the area where material has been previously removed.

However, there is nothing to prevent the bottom edge of the coating 5 from being inserted for a certain length into the removed area 3. Once the top sheet has been applied, as the bottom sheet is already present, the corner-covering element, indicated by 6, may be inserted in the groove 3. At the end of the operation, as shown in fig. 1, the panel 2 is therefore coated on top with the sheet 5, at the bottom with the sheet 4, while the corner-covering element 6 is on the part where coatings 5 and 4 meet; as may be seen, the corner-covering element is well radiused and avoids all the problems typical of the technique used previously.

Fig. 4 shows a corner-covering element 10 different from the one in the previous example, with horizontal milling which creates the grooves 7 and 8 which have horizontal development, parallel to the surface of the panel. The fact that there are two grooves instead of only one gives greater grip for the corner-covering element. Fig. 5 shows the same corner-covering element 10, but applied vertically, that is with the milled grooves 7' and 8' developed vertically instead of horizontally.

In fig. 6, in another application of the invention, the panel 100 presents grooves arranged in a line inclined with respect to the horizontal. More precisely, the grooves 11 and 12 are created in the bottom edge of the panel and the area of removal 13, so that the corner-covering element 20 matches the panel 100 following an oblique direction.

Fig. 7 shows another variation in production of a corner-covering element 30, also arranged in an oblique line with respect to the plane of the panel 100, on which panel there are cavities 14, 15 and 16 that are mated to corresponding ridges on the corner-covering element 30.

Fig. 8 shows a C-shaped corner-covering element, indicated by 40, which may

be positioned on the bottom part of the panel 100 after having made two horizontal milled grooves 18 and 19. These grooves house the corresponding ridges on the panel 40.

Fig. 9 shows the same corner-covering element 40 applied vertically and not horizontally to the panel 100, on the ridges 21 and 22.

Of course a substantially infinite plurality of variations in shape of the corner-covering element is possible, and also of the ridges on the corner-covering element which fit into the corresponding grooves made by milling on the bottom part of the panel. All these variations have in common the fact that each bottom part of the corner-covering element is radiused in such a way as to avoid all irritation.

In short, it can be observed that the part of the corner-covering element which fits into the milled grooves on the bottom part of the panel has a profile conjugate with these grooves, so that the connection which is made with glue or equivalent systems is a connection which reconstructs the panel completely without any loss of material.

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CLAIMS

1) Method for moulding radiused bottom corners on wooden or similar panels having a core coated with thermoformed polymer sheets, **characterized in that** it comprises the steps of:

- 5 - machining said panel (2, 100), with or without the bottom polymer sheet, in correspondence of the bottom corner to be grown radiused creating one or more grooves where housing a radius shaped corner-covering element;
- applying a thermoformed coating sheet of polymer resin, or the like, on the like, on the top surface of this panel in such a way that said are one or
- 10 more grooves remain open;
- inserting said radius shaped corner-covering element (6, 10, 20, 30, 40) in said one or more grooves, said radius shaped corner-covering element having a profile conjugate with the profile of said one or more grooves of said panel.

15 2) Panel according to claim 1), **characterized in that** said corner-covering element (6, 10, 20, 30, 40) presents a radiused external profile so as not to be sharp.

 3) Panel according to claim 2), **characterized in that** said corner-covering element is made of plastic.

20 4) Panel according to claim 2), **characterized in that** said corner-covering element is made of aluminium.

 5) Panel according to claim 2), **characterized in that** said corner-covering element is made of wood.

 6) Panel according to claim 2), **characterized in that** said corner-

25 covering element is made of ABS.

 7) Panel according to claim 2), **characterized in that** said corner-covering element is made of rubber.

 8) Panel according to any of the claims from 1) to 7), **characterized in that** said corner-covering element is present on the whole perimetric edge of

30 said panel.

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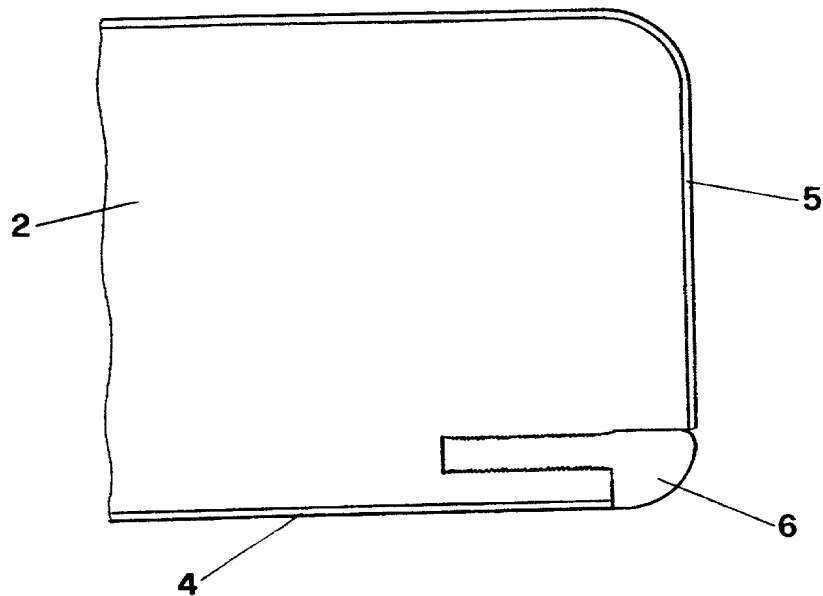


FIG.1

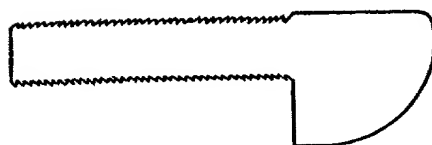


FIG.3

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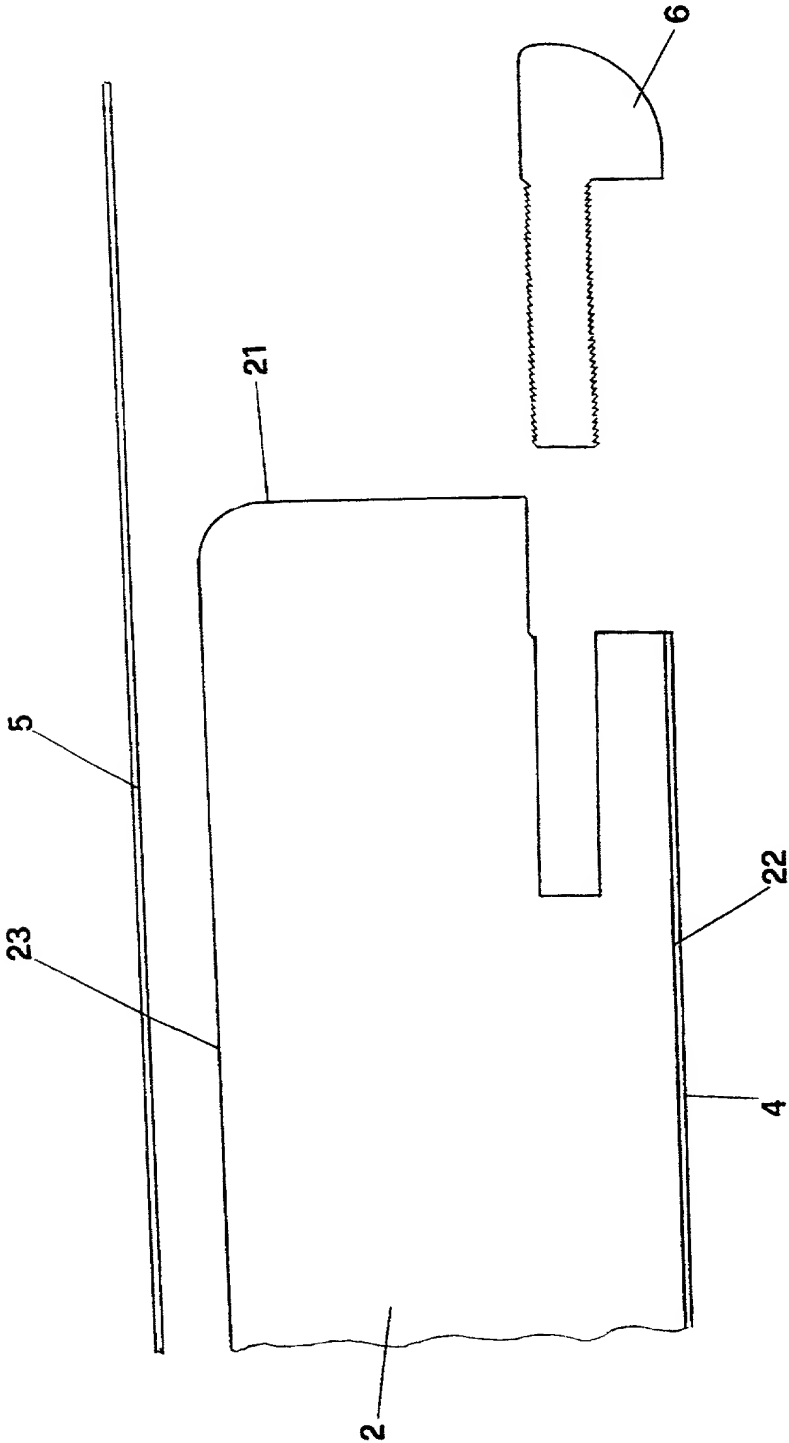


FIG.2

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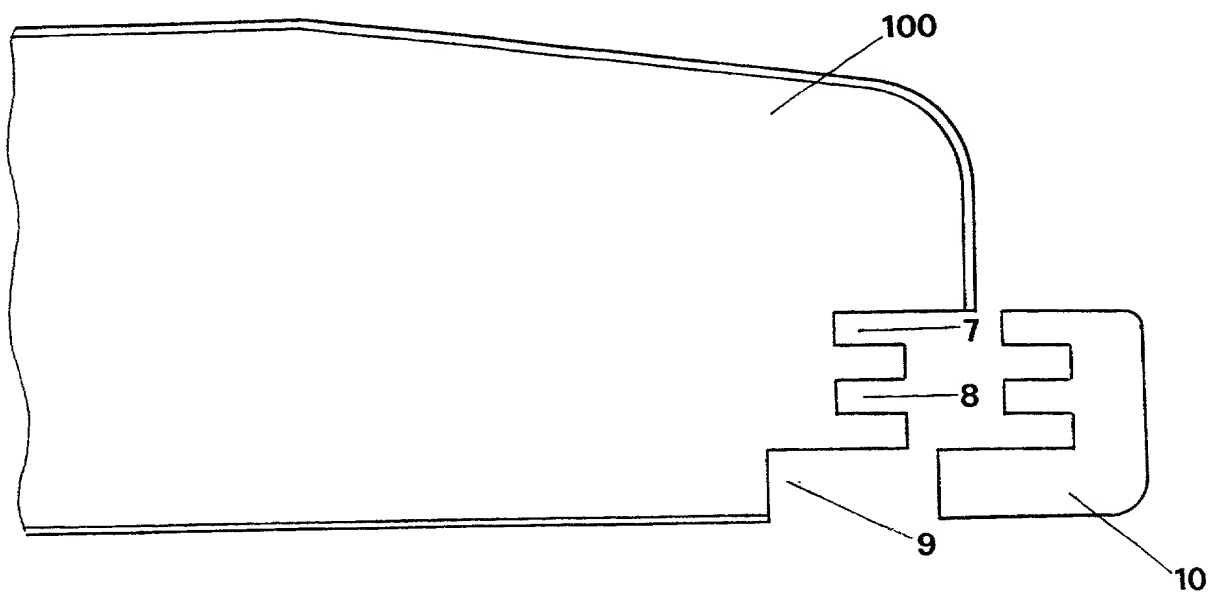


FIG. 4

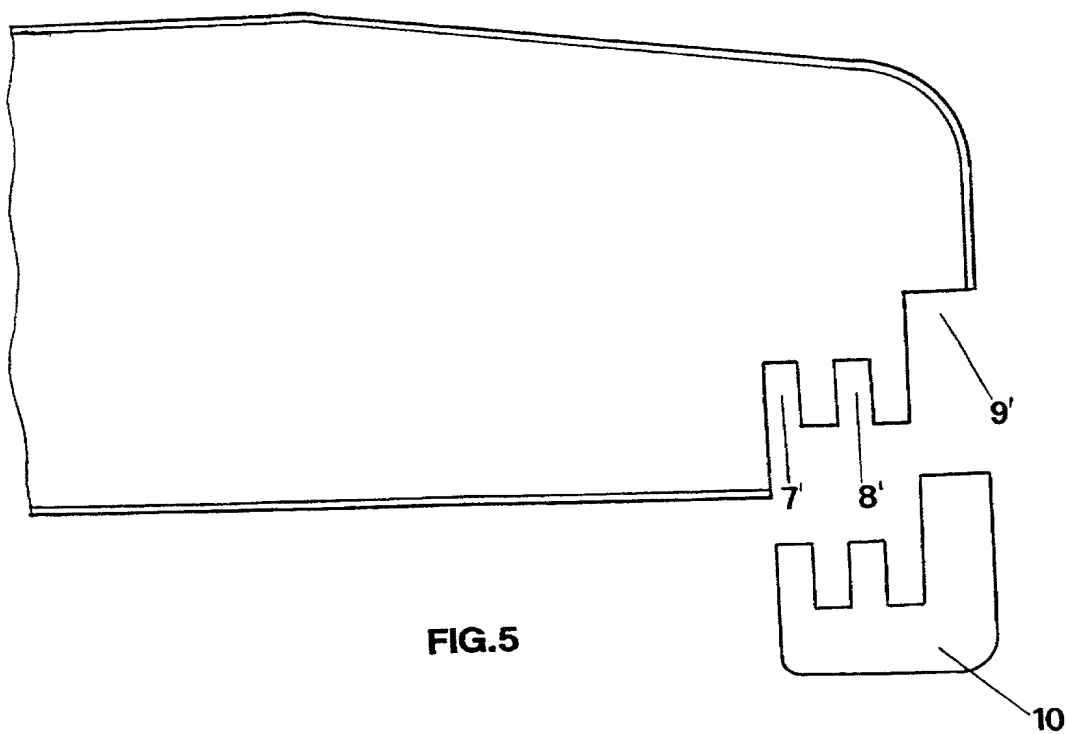
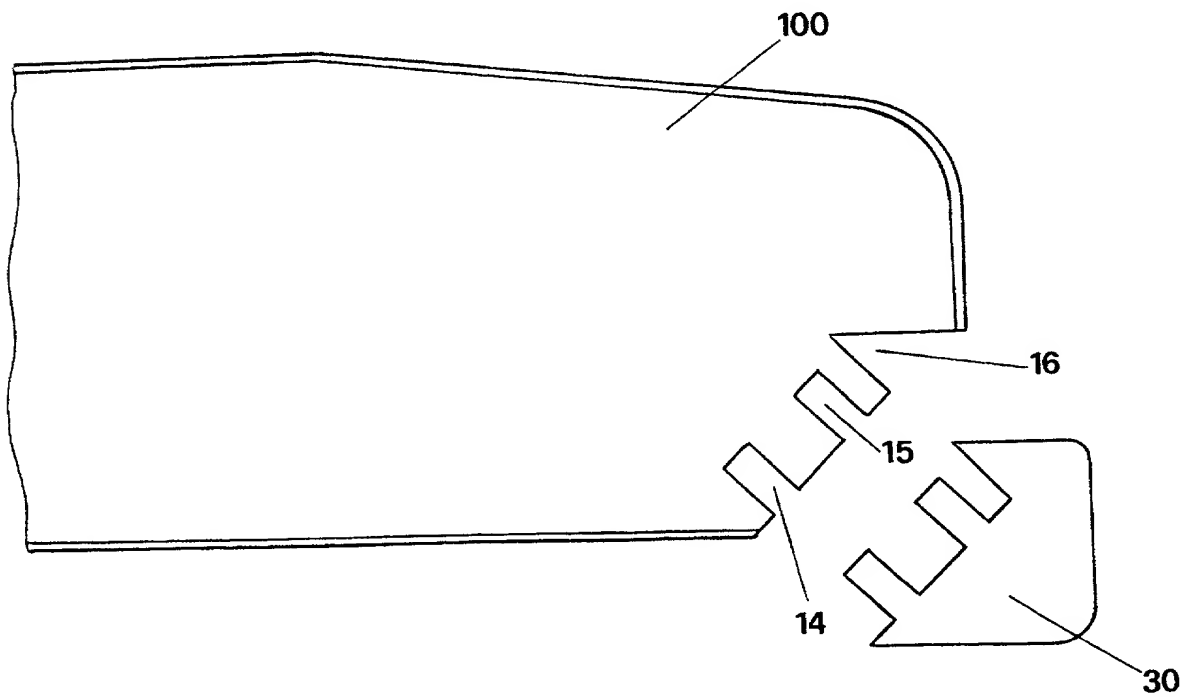
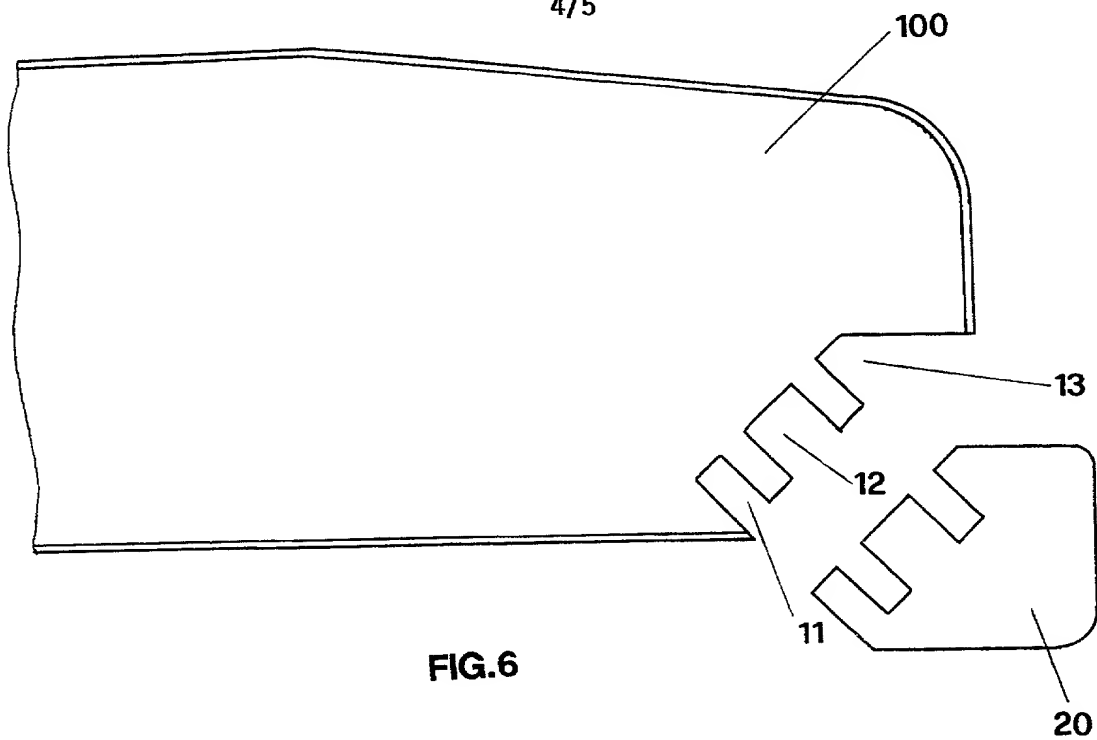


FIG. 5

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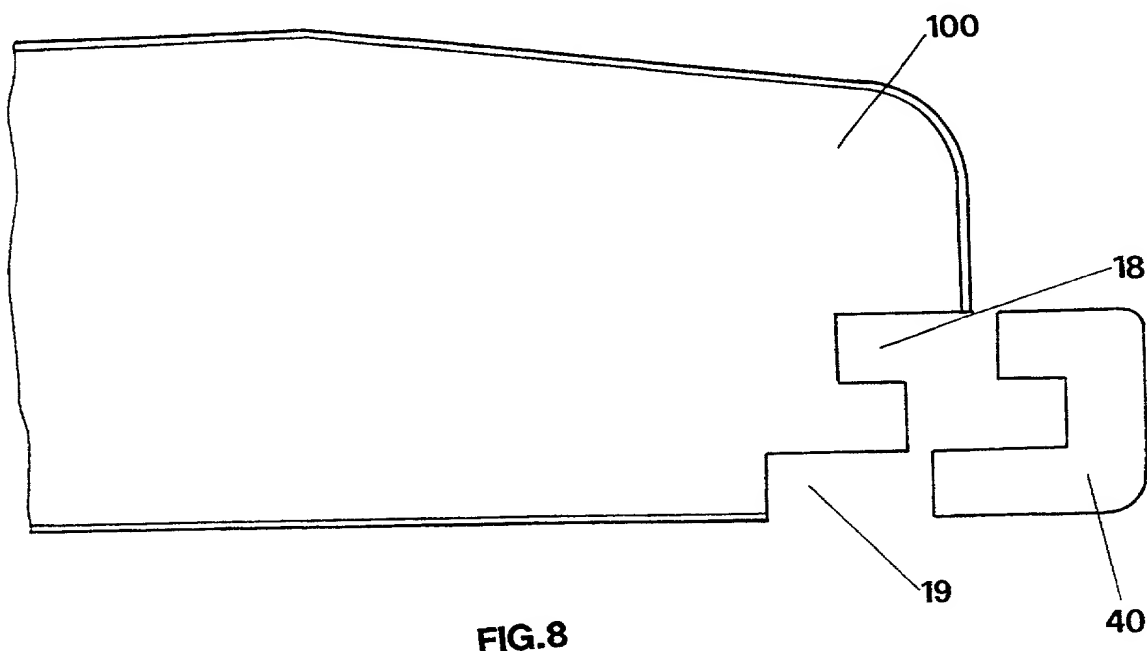


FIG. 8

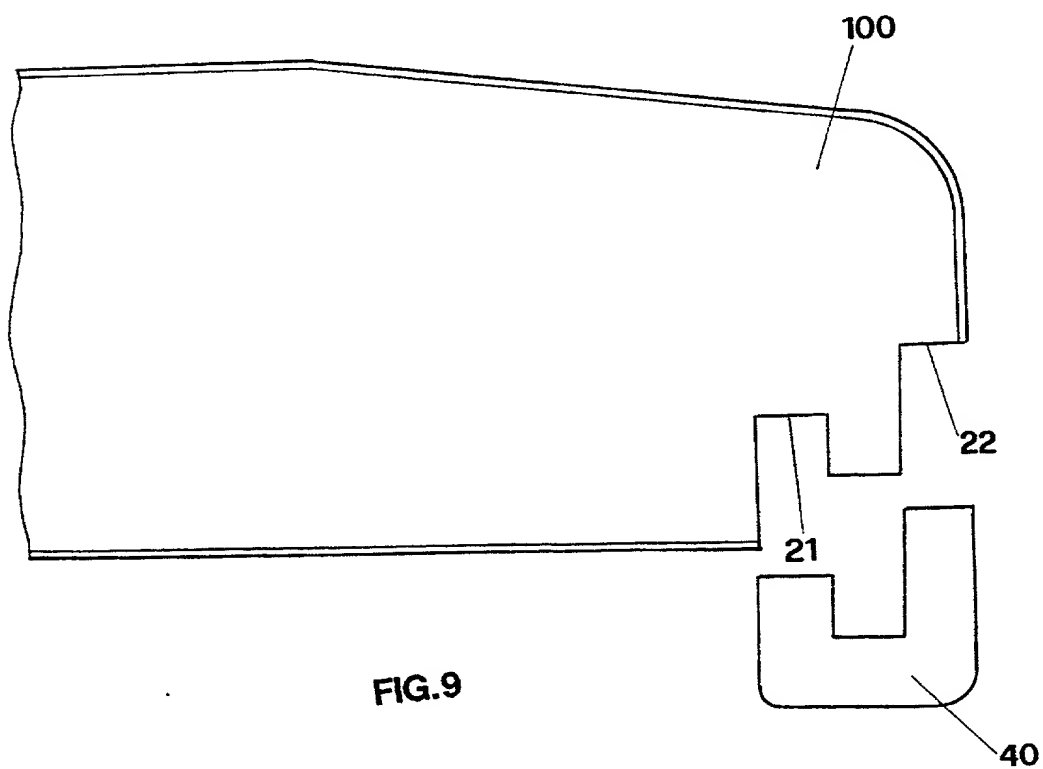
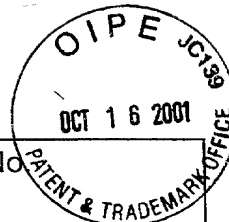


FIG. 9



COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION (Includes PCT)

Attorney Docket No. _____

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **METHOD FOR MOLDING RADIUSSED BOTTOM CORNERS ON WOODEN OR SIMILAR PANELS COATED WITH THERMOFORMED POLYMER SHEETS AND PANELS OBTAINED WITH THAT METHOD**

the specification of which (check one): ☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on August 14, 2001 as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____.

☐ was filed as PCT international application no. _____ on _____, and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I do not know and do not believe the claimed invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)	Priority Claimed
<u>VI99A000029</u> (Number)	<u>ITALY</u> (Country)
<u>FEBRUARY 16, 1999</u> Day/Month/Year Filed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)
_____ Day/Month/Year Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)
_____ Day/Month/Year Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119 (e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Application No. Filed	Day/Month/Year Filed	Application No.	Day/Month/Year
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No. _____ Filing Date _____ Status (patented, pending, abandoned) _____

Application Serial No. _____ Filing Date _____ Status (patented, pending, abandoned) _____

10 I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith; Lawrence R. Radanovic, Reg. No. 23,077; Richard H. Tushin, Reg. No. 27,297; Donald N. Huff, Reg. No. 27,561; John P. DeLuca, Reg. No. 25,505; Sandra S. Snapp, Reg. No. 41,444; Charles Rutherford, Reg. No. 18,933; Robert L. Kelly, Reg. No. 31,843; Kevin M. Hinman, Reg. No. 35,193; Ernest E. Helms, Reg. No. 29,721 and William F. Kolakowsky, Reg. No. 41,908, all of Dykema Gossett PLLC. Direct all telephone calls to telephone no. (202) 522-8600 and faxes to (202) 522-8669.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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